

CONGRATULATING THE FRANKLIN
ACADEMY HUSKIES UPON WIN-
NING THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE
GIRLS CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Franklin Academy Huskies of Malone, New York, upon winning the 2008 New York State Girls Basketball Class A Championship. I am proud to represent the Huskies, who won Franklin Academy's first team state championship in their third consecutive final four appearance.

On March 15, 2008, the Franklin Academy Huskies won the New York State Class A Championship when they defeated the Honeoye Falls-Lima Cougars 43 to 41. In that game, the Huskies persevered and came from nine points behind in the second half to take the lead with 2:20 left on a three pointer by Tournament MVP and Class A Player of the Year Alyson Johnson, who led all scorers with 17 points and also had five rebounds. All Tournament and Second Team All State selection Haley Poupore added 10 points and nine rebounds for the Huskies while teammate Kelsey Johnson contributed seven points and four rebounds to the Huskies' total and received the Tournament Sportsmanship Award.

The Franklin Academy Huskies completed the 2008 season with a record of 25 and 3. They were coached by Class A Coach of the Year Mike Wescott and assistant coaches Greg Dumas, Dave Farden, and Shelley Skelly. Other team members were Maggie Aguglia, Stephanie Edwards, Brittany Flick, Erica Johnson, Monique LaFlesh, Ashley Marshall, Brittany Marshall, Meaghan Patterson, Abby Premo, and Emily Sharlow.

Accordingly, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in extending congratulations to the Franklin Academy Huskies for winning the 2008 New York State Girls Basketball Class A Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF HERMINIA DUENAS
DIERKING

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and public service of Herminia Duenas Dierking, a distinguished leader from Guam who passed away on March 24, 2008. Herminia served the people of Guam in leadership positions in our community including as a Senator in the Guam Legislature, a professor at the University of Guam, and as a cabinet officer in the Government of Guam.

Herminia Duenas Dierking, daughter of the late Maria Pangelinan Guzman and Jose Cruz Duenas, was born on August 17, 1939 in the capital village of Hagåtña. She grew up aware of the hardships endured by our people during the occupation of Guam and she later used that knowledge and compassion to work for

justice for our people as a member of the Guam War Reparations Commission.

Herminia is a fine example of how education can open doors to new opportunities. She received her high school diploma from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam and pursued college degrees from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and later from the University of Guam where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business. She continued to work toward an advanced degree from Emporia State University, Kansas and successfully obtained a Masters of Science in Business Administration.

Herminia began her professional career as an assistant professor at the University of Guam and rose to become the chairperson of the Accounting Department, serving thirteen years in the College of Business and Public Administration. Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo, my late husband, recognized her expertise in management and appointed her as the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research in 1983. She was also appointed as the Chairperson of the Fiscal Policy Committee of the Government of Guam. Herminia's leadership helped to restore the fiscal health of the Government of Guam, leading to an economic recovery.

Herminia was urged by Governor Bordallo and other local leaders who recognized her leadership potential to run for a seat in the 18th Guam Legislature. She was successful in her first run for elected office and was subsequently reelected to the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd Guam Legislatures. During her tenure as a Senator, she served as Chairwoman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Chairwoman of the Committee on Rules, Chairwoman of the Committee on Health, Welfare, & Ecology, and Vice Chair of the Committee on General Governmental Operations. In addition to her leadership positions in the Guam Legislature, Herminia also served on the Legislative Management Committee on the Assembly of the Legislature of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Executive Committee of the Western Legislative Conference, and the Committee on Suggested State Legislation on the Council of State Governments. She was appointed to represent Guam in the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

Herminia contributed her time and effort to community improvement by volunteer work and service in several community organizations. She served as president of the Association of Government Accountants, the Guam Business Education Association, and the Guam Business and Professional Women's Club. She was also appointed to serve in leadership roles for the Western Business Education Association, Manukai Swim Club, Far East Swim League, Beauty World Guam, Tamuning Elementary School PTA, Guam Beauty Association, Father Duenas Memorial High School Parents Guild, American Heart Association, and Guam Memorial Board of Trustees. She was a member of the Soroptomist International, the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association and the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association.

My thoughts and prayers are with Herminia's husband, Deacon John C. Dierking, their five children, Cliff, Kurt, Steven, Anna Maria, and John Paul, their grandchildren, and the many family and friends whose lives she touched. We honor her life's work as an educator and community leader.

Most of all, she will always be remembered as a gentle woman who always had a kind word and a warm smile. She lived a full life and we are grateful for her public service. We will all miss her dearly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KERN
COUNTY FIRE FIGHTERS UNION
IAFF LOCAL 1301 ON THE CELE-
BRATION OF THEIR 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today, to congratulate the Kern County Fire Fighters Union, Inc. IAFF Local 1301 on the celebration of their 50th anniversary.

The Kern County Fire Fighters Union dates back to 1957, when the first organizing meeting was held. Kern County Fire Fighters Union, Inc. IAFF Local 1301 was officially organized on March 24, 1958 with 44 charter members, including Organizing President Arthur A. Arvizu and First Elected President Lester Cheek.

The first Union office was a cardboard box inside an automobile trunk. IAFF Local 1301 bought their first building located at 230 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield, California in April of 1968. The office on Truxtun Avenue was eventually sold and the Union moved to 3615 Mt Vernon Avenue in August of 1982.

While the Union has kept pace with all phases of Kern County Fire Fighter wages, hours and working conditions, some examples of its biggest accomplishments include establishing an Educational Incentive Plan, reducing the work week from 72 hours to 56 Hours with paid holidays, and playing a major role in the signing implementation of the Joint Powers Agreement between the Kern County Fire Department and the Bakersfield City Fire Department.

In the past 50 years, their membership has grown from 44 to 529 strong while 18 presidents have played a vital role in the Union's success.

The Union continues to make every effort to work with the Board of Supervisors, department heads and staff, as well as the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department and his staff, believing that greater strides can be made with all parties working together. Members have always felt secure knowing that no matter what task lies ahead, it will be met with enthusiasm by dedicated members who believe in and live by the Union motto, "In Unity There Is Strength."

The 50th anniversary of the Kern County Fire Fighters Union, Inc. IAFF Local 1301 is a perfect opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women who risk their lives every day for the safety of our community. Often, when people are running out of buildings, away from the danger, these brave men and women are the ones running toward the flames. They are our everyday heroes and I, along with all Kern County communities, am eternally grateful for their service.